

UNAPPROVED PARTS NOTIFICATION

SUSPECTED UNAPPROVED PARTS PROGRAM OFFICE, AVR-20
45005 AVIATION DRIVE, SUITE 214
DULLES, VA 20166-7541



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

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AFFECTED PART

Aircraft Altimeters.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this notification is to advise all aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, and parts suppliers and distributors regarding foreign-manufactured aircraft altimeters that have not been produced under a Technical Standard Order Authorization (TSOA) or other Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval, and are being sold as acceptable for installation on type-certificated aircraft. Some of the altimeters carry a TSO marking (see Figures 1 and 2). Instrument and Flight Research, Inc., 2716 George Washington Blvd., Wichita, KS 67210, has distributed the altimeters in the United States.

BACKGROUND

During a FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts (SUP) investigation conducted in 1993, it was discovered that aircraft altimeters manufactured in China, Japan, and Taiwan were being produced without benefit of FAA production approval and subsequently sold in the United States as acceptable for installation on type-certificated aircraft. FAA Advisory Circular 43-16, "Alerts," No. 183, dated October 1993, previously advised of the distribution of these altimeters in the United States. The Alert indicated that several of the altimeters had been tested to TSO standards and failed the tests.

A current SUP investigation has revealed that one of the referenced altimeters had been installed in an aircraft involved in an accident.

RECOMMENDATION

Regulations require that type-certificated products conform to their type design. Aircraft owners, operators, maintenance organizations, parts suppliers and distributors should inspect their aircraft, aircraft records, and/or parts inventories for any altimeter distributed by Instrument and Flight Research, Inc. If any referenced altimeter is installed on an aircraft, appropriate action should be taken. If any of the altimeters are found in existing parts inventory, it is recommended that the altimeters be quarantined to prevent installation until a determination can be made regarding each altimeter's eligibility for installation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information may be obtained from the FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) shown below. The FAA would appreciate any information relating to the source of an above-referenced altimeter, the means used to identify the source of the altimeter, and the action taken to remove the altimeter from an aircraft or parts inventory.

This notice originated from the Des Moines FSDO, 3021 Army Post Road, Des Moines, IA 50321, telephone (515) 285-9895, fax (515) 285-7595; and was published through the FAA Suspected Unapproved Parts Program Office, AVR-20, telephone (703) 661-0581, fax (703) 661-0113.

DATA TAG ON THE INSTRUMENT CONTAINS THESE MARKINGS

INSTRUMENTS & FLIGHT RESEARCH, INC.
2716 GEORGE WASHINGTON BLVD.
WICHITA, KS 67210

Mfg. P/N: IFR 46-20
S/N XXXXX



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2